



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 19, 2008

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

SUBJECT: FCC Docket No. 08-4, Hawaiian Telcom Petition for Waiver of
High-cost Universal Support Rules

I am writing in response to Hawaiian Telcom's petition for a waiver of high-cost universal service support rules. As Chairman of the House Education Committee, I am deeply committed to improving Hawaii's public education system by expanding learning opportunities for all of our students. As you are probably aware, the uniqueness of Hawaii's island geography create special challenges in the delivery of cost-effective educational resources for students living in rural communities located on the islands of Molokai, Kauai, and Hawaii.

To address this problem, the Hawaii State Legislature and the Hawaii State Department of Education have identified enhanced online learning as a strategic tool to help bridge educational opportunities between rural and non-rural learning centers. Preliminary goals for expansion and development of online learning include: 1) within three years, all public secondary school students will have access to online remedial/regular/credit recovery learning materials that are designed to help meet proficiency in Hawaii Content and Performance standards and increase on-time graduation rates; 2) within three years, ten thousand public secondary school students will take at least one online course; and, 3) within five years, all public secondary students will have access to online Advance Placement courses.

Hawaiian Telcom's petition seeks to use Universal Service support to enhance its voice facilities to rural areas, which will also help to promote the deployment of new services such as broadband. It is critical that students from these communities have basic communication services available to access these enhanced online learning programs.

In closing, I want to reiterate my support for enhanced expansion and development for online learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Takumi", is written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Roy Takumi
Chair, Education Committee